

III. REMARKS

A. Amendments to the Claims:

Pursuant to the revised amendment format guidelines, a complete listing all claims (with current claim status) presented in the application is listed above, along with the text of all claims currently under examination, with revision markings to show current changes to currently amended claims as revised from the immediately prior version thereof.

Claim Objections

Claims 6 and 7 were objected to because they did not end in a period. Claims 6 and 7 have been deleted from the application.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claims 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

Claims 5-7 included antecedent basis issues, and recitations of the invention in terms of the table saw or its parts.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 5-8 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tautz, U.S. Patent 2,085,236.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claim 9 was also rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tautz.

In view of the several objections and rejections, claims 5-9 have been deleted from the application, and new claims 10-29 are presented herein.

Applicant believes that antecedent basis is established throughout the new claims 10-29, and that the new claims do not include positive recitation to the table saw or its parts.

For the reasons discussed below, Applicant further believes that the claims 10-29 patentably distinguish over the prior art of record, including Tautz, and Cowley (U.S. Patent 2,895,513) which was also included with the Office Action.

One unique aspect of the present invention is in its ease of precision adjustment of the workpiece mounting plate 38 toward and away from the front of the base plate 24, and thus movement of the workpiece toward and away from cutting tool. This is accomplished with a control arm 48 that is secured to the base plate 24, and a drive screw 46 threaded through the control arm in direction parallel to the slide tracks 40, 42 between the mounting plate and the base plate and rotatably engaging the movable mounting plate for adjustment of the position of the mounting plate along the rails in the base plate. This arrangement enables fine adjustment of the mounting plate through the entire range of movement of the mounting plate on the base plate.

This aspect of the present invention is clarified in claim 10 which recites, among other things, "an upright brace connected in fixed relation to said plate and formed with a threaded hole extending parallel to said first track", and "a drive screw threaded through the threaded hole in said upright brace and rotatably engaging the workpiece mounting structure to effect sliding movement of said holder between said [front and back] plates upon turning of the drive screw;".

In contrast, Tautz disclose a movable hollow L-shaped bracket 19 to which a workpiece is clamped, and which is clamped into and released from position, for sliding toward and away from the cutting tool, with a vertically oriented stud 23 extending through a vertical slot 25. The vertical locking stud 23 is loosened to manually slide the bracket, and is then tightened to secure the bracket and workpiece in position in relation to the cutting tool. To this basic arrangement, Tautz adds a short horizontal thumb screw 27 that threads through the back side of the movable L-shaped bracket, and that acts against the upright stud 23 for fine positional adjustment of the bracket. However, by virtue of its acting against the upright stud, the thumb screw in Tautz enables only limited adjustment of the position of the bracket. In use, the locking stud of Tautz must be loosened and the bracket manually slide to a position proximate its desired final location prior to using the thumb screw for fine position adjustment. Cowley also utilizes a vertical locking bolt 18 in a slightly different arrangement to secure and release a movable angle plate 22 to a base plate 14.

Thus, the present invention, including a drive screw threaded through the control arm which remains stationary with respect to the mounting plate, extending parallel to the slide tracks between the mounting plate and the base plate, and engaging the movable mounting plate, enables fine adjustment of the mounting plate over its full range of motion. On the other hand, Tautz (and Cowley) provide for vertical clamp studs, to secure the movable workpiece mounting structures thereof in position have they have been manually slid into position with respect to the desired depth of cut in the workpiece. Tautz provision of a thumbscrew threaded through a wall of the movable bracket and engaging the vertical clamping stud extending from the base plate does not provide for full range of fine adjustment of the workpiece holding bracket.

Similarly, new 24 includes limitations to "b) an upright brace (i) connected in fixed relation to the base plate, ... (iii) formed with a threaded hole extending parallel to 'said first pair of tracks" and "a drive screw threaded through the threaded hole in the upright brace, and rotatably engaging the mounting plate for movement thereof between said [front and back] positions upon turning the drive screw".

Another unique aspect of the present invention is provision of a workpiece carrier that is particularly useful with a band saw.

Tautz and Cowley use various types of clamps that act to clamp a workpiece against in position. These clamps overhang the front of the carrier, and extend around the workpiece, well past the front of the workpiece, to clamp the workpiece in position. Consequently, such arrangements are simply not suitable for use with a band saw because overhanging clamps will interfere with cutting by the band saw blade.

In contrast, one embodiment of the present invention provides for fasteners extending through the back side of the mounting plate to secure the workpiece in position against the front of the plate. This unique aspect of the invention is highlighted in claim 18 which reads, among other things, with workpiece "securing means being characterized as located behind a vertical plane passing through the front edge of the base with said workpiece mounting structure in said back position."

Although both Tautz and Cowley show apertures through their respective workpiece mounting members, and Tautz even shows fasteners for securing an auxiliary workpiece holder in position, neither arrangement is disclosed as operable without the overhanging clamp arrangements. Thus, neither Tautz and Cowley disclose a means for securing a workpiece to the

carrier without the overhanging clamps.

In summary, neither Tautz or Cowley, nor the other art of record, disclose or suggest the invention as now defined in independent claims 10, 18 and 24. Therefore, it is believed that claims 10-29 patentably distinguish over the prior art, and that the claims are in a condition for allowance.

B. Amendments to the Specification:

As noted in the Introductory Comments, the current specification is replaced with the enclosed second substitute specification (13 pages, including abstract).

Pursuant to the revised amendment format guidelines, (1) the second substitute specification includes revision markings, strikethrough for deletions and underlining for additions, to show changes relative to the immediately prior version thereof, and (2) No "clean" version of the second substitute specification is supplied. The second substitute specification does not present new matter into the application, and all changes are supported by the original application disclosure. The second substitute specification also includes formatting changes in that paragraph numbers have been added, and a few blank lines have been removed.

In the office action, the substitute specification was objected to because of several informalities. The following informalities have been removed in the second substitute specification included herewith, with the changes suggested in the Office Action:

On page 9, line 27 of the substitute specification (corresponding to page 9, line 24 of the second substitute specification herewith), "50" was changed to --48--.

On page 10, lines 1-2 and in the list on page 7 of the substitute specification (corresponding to page 9, line 27, line 30, and the list on page 7 of the second substitute specification herewith), "handle" was changed to -- knob--.

Applicant notes that the recitation on page 10, lines 10-11 of the substitute specification (corresponding to page 10, line 9 of the second substitute specification herewith): "such that they [the handles 32] are held fixed to the base plate 24", when read out of context as presented in the Office Action, appears incorrect as noted in the Office Action. However, a more complete quotation from that specification reads "the handles 32 are connected between the slide member 36 and the mounting plate 38 such that they are held fixed to the base plate 24 with respect said path parallel to the cut of the saw blade 18" (underline added). This sentence simply indicates

that the handles do not slide or move with respect to the base plate in the direction that is transverse to the slide and tracks. In other words, and as evident from the disclosure of the invention, the handles enable sliding of the entire carrier along the path of the guide slot in the work table. The second substitute specification has been amended in paragraph [0037] to clarify this point. Of course, the handles as provided between the mounting plate 38 and slide 36 translate therewith on the base plate. This, selective motion, however, does not prevent the handles being used for manual movement of the entire carrier along the work table.

In addition to correction of the informalities noted in the Office Action, the specification as amended in the second substitute specification includes the following additional changes:

- added paragraph [0022] description for new Figure 2A;
- changed paragraph description for Figures 3-5 to individual paragraph descriptions [0023] through [0025];
- added reference numeral 25 and identification as "front edge of base plate" in paragraphs [0027] and [0031];
- description of base plate includes specific reference to front edge and top and bottom surfaces,
- identification of representative front "F" and back "B" positions of the mounting plate 38 in the drawings in paragraph [0033],
- further description of movement of mounting plate, and associated turning of the knob 50 and drive screw in paragraphs [0033] and [0036], and
- correction of typographical error(s) in paragraphs [0027] and [0032].

C. Amendments to the Drawings:

As noted above in the Introductory Comments, the current drawings are replaced with the enclosed second substitute drawings (6 sheets). These substitute drawings are presented as proposed formal drawings, with new FIG. 2A, and amendments to FIGS. 1-6. These substitute drawings do not introduce new matter into the application, and all changes are supported by the original application disclosure.

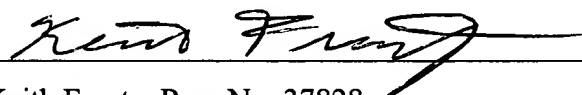
Pursuant to the revised amendment format guidelines, changes relative to the immediately prior version are not indicated on the substitute drawing sheets, but are instead discussed below.

Specifically:

- FIG 2A has been added as an enlarged view of certain parts shown in FIG. 2,
- reference numeral 25 and leader lines have been added to FIGS. 1, 2, 4 and 5,
- dashed-lines representative of front and back positions of the mounting plate have been added to FIG. 5 along with reference letters F and B and leader lines associated therewith,
- reference numerals 10 and 36 and associated leader lines have been added to FIG. 3,
- reference numeral 10 and associated leader line has also been added to FIG. 4,
- reference numerals 10, 30 and 32 (2x) and associated leader lines have also been added to FIG. 5,
- reference numerals 24, 26 (2x), 30, 32 (2x), 36, 38, 48, 50 and 54 associated leader lines have been added to FIG. 6, and
- reference numerals and associated leader lines are presented in all FIGS. in formal format.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application and claims are in a condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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